SEPTEMBER 2017 | VOLUME 18 | NUMBER 8

CINEPLEX MAGAZINE

GAME ON! Emma Stone TALKS BATTLE OF THE SEXES

Inside

TATIANA MASLANY

DAVE FRANCO

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YOUR GUIDE TO THE TORONTO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL, PAGE 36

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Battle of the Sexes casts reigning Best Actress Oscar winner **Emma Stone** as tennis legend Billie Jean King, who took on sexist opponent Bobby Riggs in a made-for-TV match in 1973. Here, the 28-year-old star talks about getting lessons from the real King, and why singing and dancing is a lot easier than playing tennis
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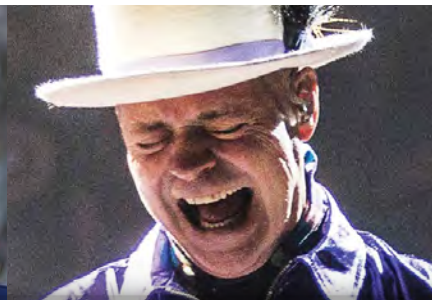

PHOTO BY JABIN BOTSFORD/GETTY; COVER PHOTO BY ART STREIBER/AUGUST

EDITOR'S **NOTE**

GIVING **CREDIT**

Did you know that in 1973 most women in the U.S. — and Canada, too — couldn't get a credit card without having a man co-sign? It didn't matter whether they were married, single, widowed or divorced.

I just learned that fact while reading a series of Billie Jean King interviews about the Battle of the Sexes, the historic 1973 tennis match in which, at 29 years old and at the top of her game, King took on over-the-hill, 55-year-old former champ and unabashed chauvinist Bobby Riggs at his urging. The match, which Riggs expected would prove male superiority regardless of age or physical fitness, is chronicled in this month's aptly titled *Battle of the Sexes*, which stars Emma Stone as King and Steve Carell as Riggs.

In several interviews about the match King uses the credit card issue as shorthand to remind us what it was like for women at the time.

It's too easy to think of the Battle of the Sexes as simply the inspiration for spirited dinner-table conversations about women's athletic abilities, and forget the practical, concrete limitations to living a decent life that faced women back then. It was those practical issues (not a sense of showmanship, that was Riggs' specialty) that propelled King to accept Riggs' challenge — she was campaigning for equal payouts for men and women at the big tournaments at the time.

At first glance, not being able to get a credit card on your own may not seem like the worst offence at a time when we all know women got the short end of the stick.

But it made me think of something Margaret Atwood said about her novel *The Handmaid's Tale* (now must-see TV), in which the government-mandated enslavement of fertile women in a near-future America begins with freezing their bank accounts. In an interview for *Entertainment Weekly* Atwood explained her reasoning. "How would you get them back into the home if they didn't want to go?" Take away their financial independence, of course.

And, sure, things have improved. In 1974 the Equal Credit Opportunity Act was passed, which made it illegal, though certainly not impossible, for banks to discriminate based on race, gender or marital status. But leveling the economic playing field for men and women is still a long way off with pay inequity being the most salient example (women in Canada still make just 88 cents for every dollar earned by their male counterparts on an hourly basis).

In fact, just a few months ago Stone revealed in an interview with *Out Magazine* that her leading men often have to volunteer to take pay cuts just so she can earn an equal salary.

Turn to "King for a Day," page 32, to read our interview with **Emma Stone** about tennis, fighting for what's right and getting to know Billie Jean King.

Elsewhere in this issue we talk to **Tatiana Maslany** about her wrenching role in *Stronger* (page 28) and **Dave Franco** tells us about voicing a plastic hero in *The LEGO Ninjago Movie* (page 24). Then on page 36 you'll find your **Toronto International Film Festival Guide**, our picks for some of the best movies to take in at the fest or simply see when they come to a theatre near you.

■ **MARNI WEISZ**, EDITOR

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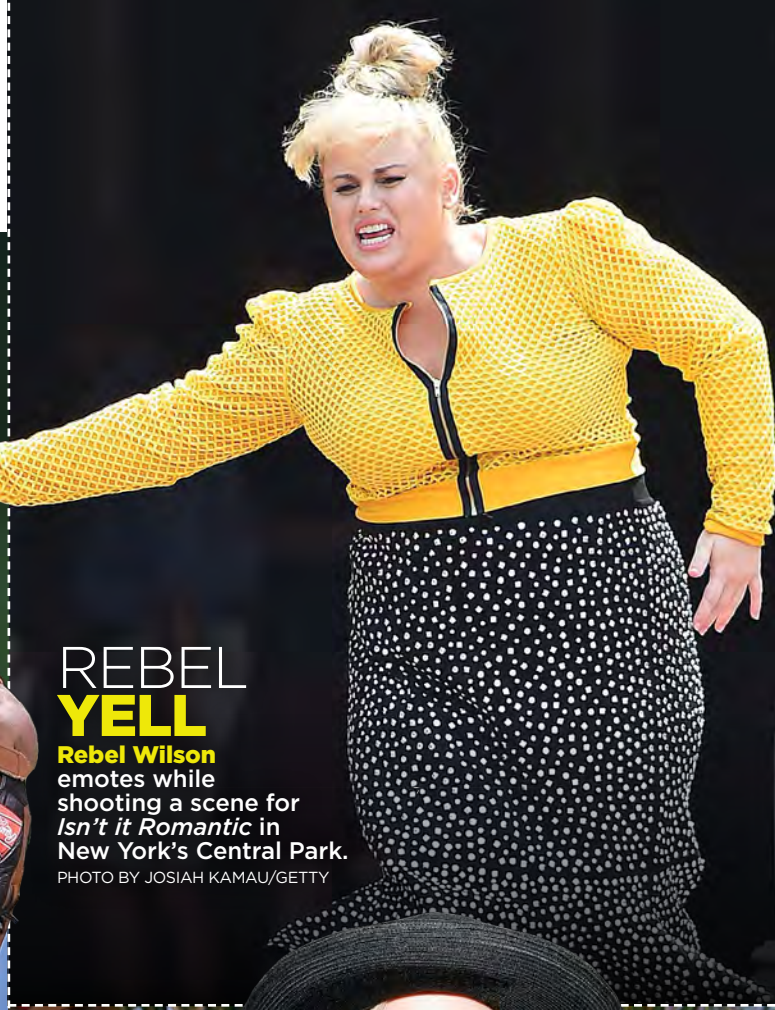
SNAPS

FOXX PLAYS BALL

Jamie Foxx — a pretty good football player in high school — tries softball as part of the MLB All-Star Legends and Celebrity Softball game in Miami.

PHOTO BY GUSTAVO CABALLERO/GETTY



REBEL YELL

Rebel Wilson emotes while shooting a scene for *Isn't it Romantic* in New York's Central Park.

PHOTO BY JOSIAH KAMAU/GETTY

THE LAW IN PARIS

Jennifer Lawrence layers up for the Christian Dior Fall/Winter runway show during Haute Couture Paris Fashion Week.

PHOTO BY VICTOR BOYKO/GETTY

THE **HAMILL** PACK

Star Wars star **Mark Hamill**, his daughter **Chelsea Hamill**, and their dogs attend a screening of *Brigsby Bear* in Los Angeles.

PHOTO BY GABRIEL OLSEN/GETTY

THE **SPIELBERG** SQUAT

At 70 years old director **Steven Spielberg** is spry enough to squat for his shot on the Manhattan set of *The Papers*.

PHOTO BY SPLASH NEWS

SWANK SURROUNDINGS

Hilary Swank (centre) looks shocked about something no one else — even tennis legend **Billie Jean King** in the periwinkle blazer — can see at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships.

PHOTO BY KARWAI TANG/GETTY

IN BRIEF

Kirsten Dunst in *Woodshock*
INSET: Laura (left) and Kate Mulleavy

MULLEAVY SISTERS PHOTO BY VICTOR BOYKO/GETTY

RODARTE DESIGNS MOVIE

Rodarte, the high-fashion line created by California sisters Laura and Kate Mulleavy, has long been influenced by film.

Just think back to the sisters' 2014 line of long, flowing evening gowns printed with images from *Star Wars* — Yoda, C-3P0, Luke Skywalker dancing across models' legs. Laura and Kate also designed the ballet costumes for 2010's Best Picture nominee *Black Swan*.

Now the sisters have written and directed their first full-length feature film, *Woodshock*, which stars their friend Kirsten Dunst as Theresa, described in the official plot synopsis as "a haunted young woman spiraling in the wake of profound loss, torn between her fractured emotional state and the reality-altering effects of a potent cannabinoid drug."

Somewhere between art film, horror and drama, *Woodshock* aims to delight those who value aesthetics and emotional states above an expected narrative, even if it's not likely to dominate the box office on its opening weekend.

Woodshock hits theatres on September 22nd. —*MW*

Christoph Waltz

On Home Turf: GEORGETOWN

Two-time Oscar winner Christoph Waltz is in Toronto this month shooting his directorial debut, *Georgetown*.

Waltz — who won Supporting Actor Oscars for *Django Unchained* and *Inglourious Basterds* — also stars in the film as social climber Ulrich Mott who marries Elsa Brecht, a wealthy widow played by Vanessa Redgrave.

The script is very loosely based on the true story of Georgetown's Albrecht Muth and his much older wife Viola Drath, the latter of whom died under mysterious circumstances in August 2011. —*MW*

THE ART OF FILM

Somewhere in a studio in Victoria, B.C., artist Dale Roberts is probably bent over a piece of foam core holding a felting needle and creating his next celebrity portrait. "I think of it very much like a painter would a painting although the process is very labour intensive," he says. "The needle is used to poke the wool until it becomes firm and tight on the surface. Wool colours I blend by hand to create more subtle ranges of tone." Here you see Roberts' felt renditions, clockwise from left, of Gal Gadot as Wonder Woman, Eddie Redmayne as Lili Elbe in *The Danish Girl* and Chris Pine as *Star Trek*'s Captain James T. Kirk. Go to daleroberts.blogspot.ca to see more. —*MW*

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Clown COSTUME

Wondering why Pennywise, the menacing clown at the centre of *It*, looks like he just walked out of a Renaissance fair?

The film's costume designer Janie Bryant — who was previously in charge of *Mad Men*'s bespoke looks — told *Entertainment Weekly* that Pennywise's fitted ensemble draws on Medieval, Renaissance, Elizabethan and Victorian eras because the character is ageless.

"The costume definitely incorporates all these otherworldly past lives, if you will," she said. "He is definitely a clown from a different time."

***It* hits theatres September 8th.**

Quote Unquote

I was very hesitant about making a sequel purely because so many sequels don't really enhance the experience. They're normally bigger but not necessarily better.... ***Kick-Ass 2* was a big learning curve of how not to make a sequel. We didn't set out to make a terrible film.**

—**MATTHEW VAUGHN**, DIRECTOR OF THIS MONTH'S SEQUEL *KINGSMAN: THE GOLDEN CIRCLE*

Taron Egerton in *Kingsman: The Golden Circle*

HONOURING SABBATH

Black Sabbath played its final concert in its hometown of Birmingham, England, on February 4th of this year, wrapping up an 81-concert tour dubbed "The End" that singer Ozzy Osbourne swore was the band's last. If you missed it, no worries. *Black Sabbath: The End of the End*, a documentary about that final gig, screens at more than 1,500 cinemas worldwide, including many Cineplex theatres, on September 28th. Go to Cineplex.com/Events for more info and to buy tickets.

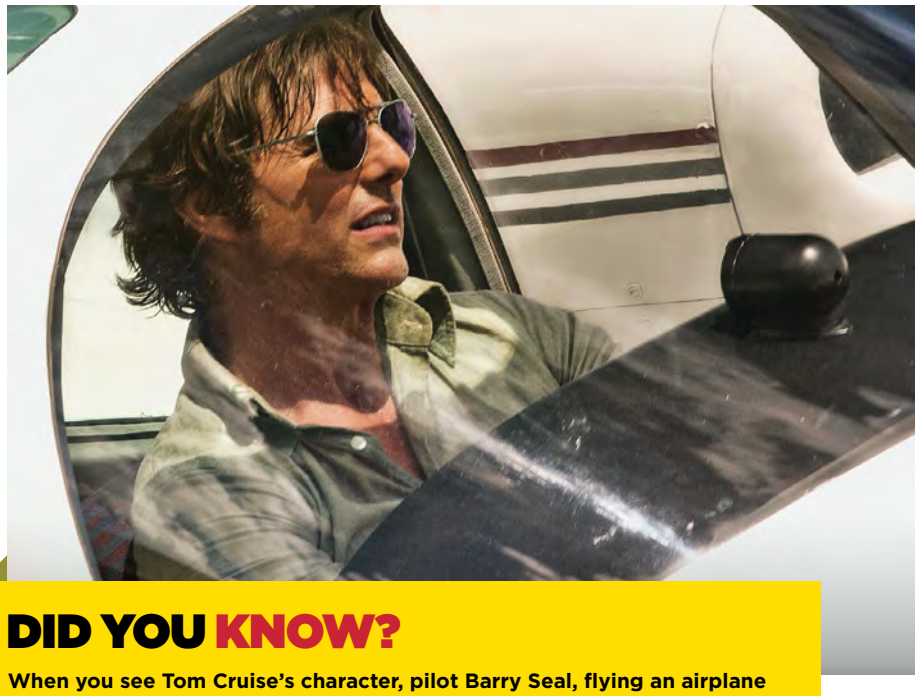
PHOTO BY ROSS HALFIN

A New Hope... **For Travellers**

Our bags are already packed! Florida's Disney World is getting a *Star Wars*-themed resort to go along with the "*Star Wars*: Galaxy's Edge" land that's expected to open there in 2019.

According to Bob Chapek, chairman of Walt Disney Parks & Resorts, the hotel complex will be a completely immersive experience.

"From the second you arrive, you will become a part of a *Star Wars* story," he announced on the Disney Parks blog. "You'll immediately become a citizen of the galaxy and experience all that entails, including dressing up in the proper attire. Once you leave Earth, you will discover a starship alive with characters, stories, and adventures that unfold all around you." *—MW*



DID YOU KNOW?

When you see Tom Cruise's character, pilot Barry Seal, flying an airplane in *American Made*, it's actually Cruise piloting that plane, including a scene in which the star had to leave the cockpit to throw bundles of cocaine out of the flying aircraft. He was the only one on board the plane at the time. Cruise has had his pilot's license for decades, and completed some of his practice hours in Canada in the early 1990s while his then-wife Nicole Kidman was in Toronto shooting *To Die For*. *—MW*

FESTIVAL SEASON!

The Toronto International Film Festival isn't the only celebration of cinema in Canada this season. Here are some of the other big film fests unspooling coast to coast.

FIN: ATLANTIC INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
Halifax, Nova Scotia
September 14-21
www.finfestival.ca

CINÉFEST SUDBURY
Sudbury, Ontario
September 16-24
www.cinefest.com

OTTAWA INTERNATIONAL ANIMATION FESTIVAL
Ottawa, Ontario
September 20-24
www.animationfestival.ca

CALGARY INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
Calgary, Alberta
September 20-October 1
www.calgaryfilm.com

EDMONTON INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
Edmonton, Alberta
September 28-October 7
www.edmontonfilmfest.com

VANCOUVER INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
Vancouver, British Columbia
September 28-October 13
www.viff.org/festival

FESTIVAL DU NOUVEAU CINEMA
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www.nouveaucinema.ca

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Standard PROBLEM

Every actor knows, you always say yes. When a director asks, "Can you ride a horse?" Yes. "Bungee jump?" Yes. "Speak Mandarin?" Yes. You figure it out later.

So when *Flatliners* director Niels Arden Oplev asked Steve Byers if he could drive standard, well, that was an easy one. At some point in his life the Toronto actor had been behind the wheel of a standard vehicle.

Byers (TV's *Reign*, *Slasher* and *Falcon Beach*) had been cast as Sam, boyfriend to Marlo (Nina Dobrev), one of the medical students experimenting with near-death experiences in the spooky sequel to 1990's *Flatliners*.

Oplev was thrilled. He'd found a vintage Porsche he wanted to use, and it was only available in standard.

"I said to my wife, 'What are the chances I'm going to shoot on a hill? We're in Toronto, it's no big deal,'" says Byers.

He arrived to rehearse the scene near Toronto's Flatiron building at Front and Church. "It's all flat, except one big drop as it goes toward the lake," recalls Byers.

Plus they'd brought in "hail" machines that spit out tiny, biodegradable pellets. In this scene, as hail rains down, the med students start to realize something weird is going on.

"So they tell me to get in the car, and the location guy's down there.... They've got the Porsche down parked on the hill. I'm like, 'Oh man, really?'"

The street was shut down and there were crowds of people watching. "They said, 'Steve, just drive the car up to your mark on top of the hill there, then you'll get out and we'll deliver the dialogue.' I said, 'Sure, no problem.'"

They turned on the hail machines, and it was like driving on marbles.

"I stupidly wore flip-flops to set, which is a big no-no. My flip-flops are getting stuck on the clutch, the car's sliding backwards, and I'm just trying not to stall the thing, and all these people are watching. I actually make it pretty close to my mark. I get out of the car. Nina and I are supposed to give each other a kiss. I go over, we're doing our thing, and I hear, 'Whoa, whoa, whoa!'

"I turn around and the car's sliding backwards because, I don't know if you've ever driven standard, but you're supposed to turn on the emergency break."

Byers jumped back in the car and threw on the break. "It was one of the most frightening experiences of my life."

Fortunately, he was able to practice several more times before shooting for real.

"Needless to say, I said 'Yeah,' and I learned my lesson. But would I do it again? Yeah." *—MARNI WEISZ*

FLATLINERS
HITS THEATRES
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ALL DRESSED UP

ALISON BRIE

In L.A. for the premiere of Netflix' *GLOW*.

PHOTO BY DAVID CROTTY/GETTY

DON CHEADLE

In L.A. for The Final Pitch, an event to support environmental entrepreneurs.

PHOTO BY JEFFREY MAYER/GETTY

AMY ADAMS

At the Giffoni Film Festival in Giffoni Valle Piana, Italy.

PHOTO BY STEFANIA D'ALESSANDRO/GETTY

NATALIE PORTMAN

At the Dior For Love photo call in Tokyo, Japan.

PHOTO BY JUN SATO/GETTY

TOM HARDY

In London for the U.K. premiere of *Dunkirk*.

PHOTO BY TOLGA AKMEN/GETTY

REGINA HALL

In L.A. for the premiere of *Girls Trip*.

PHOTO BY JASON LAVERIS

IN THEATRES

SEPTEMBER 8

HOME AGAIN

Reese Witherspoon's first rom-com since 2012's *This Means War* casts her as the recently divorced Alice, who moves back in with her mom (**Candice Bergen**). Also moving in are three young filmmakers — **Nat Wolff**, **Pico Alexander**, **Jon Rudnitsky** — who turn Alice's world upside down.

Bill Skarsgård as scary clown Pennywise in *It*

IT

This adaptation of author **Stephen King**'s novel kicks off in the 1980s with a group of misfit kids being terrorized by an evil entity that takes the form of a scary clown called Pennywise (**Bill Skarsgård**). This is the first of two *It* films, with the initial movie focusing on the kids, and the second film set 30 years later when the now adult kids return to their hometown.

SEPTEMBER 15

MOTHER!

Writer/director **Darren Aronofsky** (*Black Swan*) has been very tight-lipped about this drama that brought a stellar cast, including **Jennifer Lawrence**, **Javier Bardem**, **Kristen Wiig**, **Domhnall Gleeson** and **Michelle Pfeiffer**, to Montreal to shoot in the summer of 2016. We do know the story concerns an apparently serene household that's upended when uninvited guests arrive.

BRAD'S STATUS

Mike White, writer of eclectic comedies that span from the broad *Nacho Libre* to poignant *School of Rock* and biting *Beatriz at Dinner* directs only his second feature film after 2007's *Year of the Dog*. This one, which White also wrote, stars **Ben Stiller** as a guy who should be content with his fairly good life but can't help but compare himself to old friends and conclude he's lacking.

CONTINUED ▶

AMERICAN ASSASSIN

Mitch Rapp (**Dylan O'Brien**) embarks on a one-man mission to kill the terrorists who murdered his fiancée. His enthusiasm catches the attention of a U.S. government official (**Sanaa Lathan**) who pairs Mitch with a Black Ops trainer (**Michael Keaton**).

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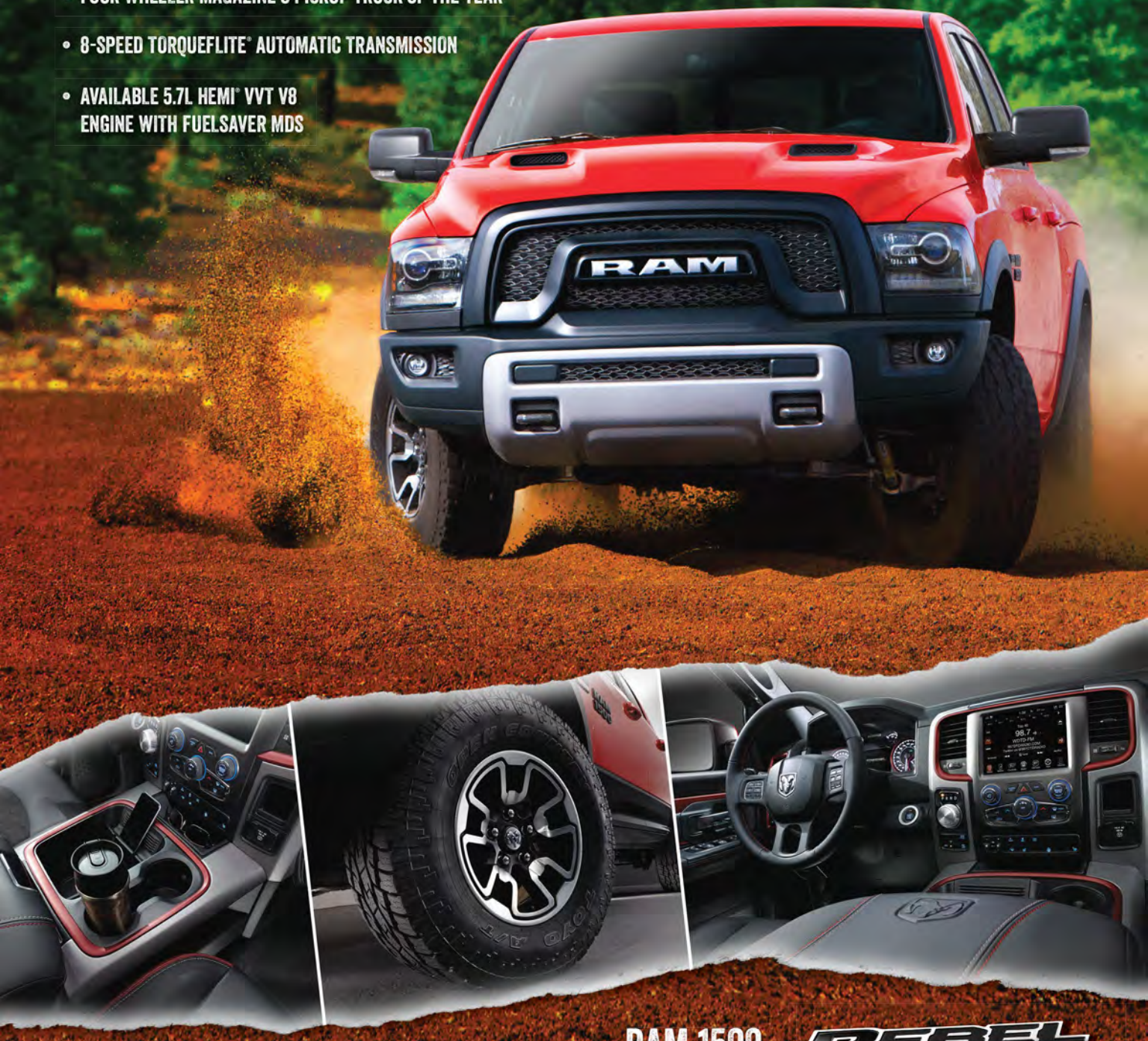

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SEPTEMBER 22

VICTORIA AND ABDUL

The aged Queen Victoria (**Judi Dench**) takes a shine to recently arrived Indian kitchen servant Abdul Karim (**Ali Fazal**), which does not sit well with the Royal household and Victoria's children. This is the second time Dench has played Queen Victoria, following her Oscar-nominated turn in the 1997 film *Mrs. Brown*.

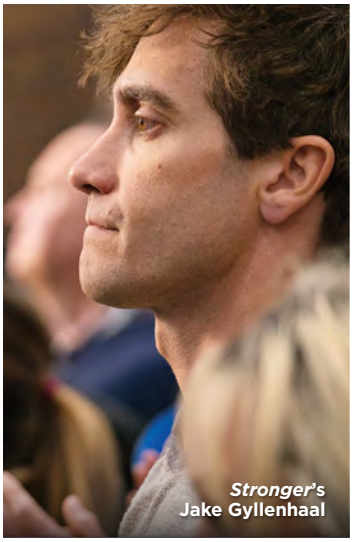
Steve Carell as Bobby Riggs in *Battle of the Sexes*

BATTLE OF THE SEXES

One of 2017's most intriguing films is directors **Valerie Faris** and **Jonathan Dayton**'s (*Little Miss Sunshine*) recount of 1973's Battle of Sexes tennis match between Billie Jean King (**Emma Stone**) and Bobby Riggs (**Steve Carell**). Not only was King under pressure to defeat admitted "male sexist pig" Riggs, she was hiding the fact she was gay. **See Emma Stone interview, page 32.**

WOODSHOCK

Kirsten Dunst stars in this trippy drama about a young woman living in the wilderness who experiments with a potent drug and experiences tragedy.



Stronger's Jake Gyllenhaal

STRONGER

Jeff Bauman was standing at the finish line of the 2013 Boston Marathon cheering on his girlfriend Erin when a bomb left by terrorist Tamerlan Tsarnaev exploded. He lost both legs (but was able to identify Tsarnaev while in hospital) and battled through depression to become a symbol of "Boston Strong" resilience. This adaptation of his memoir stars **Jake Gyllenhaal** as Bauman, **Tatiana Maslany** as his girlfriend Erin and **Miranda Richardson** as his mother, Patty. **See Tatiana Maslany interview, page 28.**

KINGSMAN: THE GOLDEN CIRCLE

The first *Kingsman* pic was a smart, sexy and violent spy romp showcasing young star **Taron Egerton** as street kid Eggsy, who is mentored by suave secret agent Harry Hart (**Colin Firth**). This sequel finds Eggsy working with the American version of Kingsman (called Statesman) led by rugged Agent Tequila (**Channing Tatum**) to take down vicious villain Poppy (**Julianne Moore**).

THE LEGO NINJAGO MOVIE

The LEGO film franchise expands with this spinoff film that finds Lloyd — a.k.a. the Green Ninja (**Dave Franco**) — and kung fu master Wu (**Jackie Chan**) ridding Ninjago City of the evil warlord Garmadon (**Justin Theroux**), who also happens to be Lloyd's dad. **See Dave Franco interview, page 24.**

CONTINUED ▶

***Kingsman: The Golden Circle*'s secret agents, from left: Taron Egerton, Colin Firth and Pedro Pascal**

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SEPTEMBER 29

Flatliners' **Ellen Page**

FLATLINERS

This remake of the 1990 thriller casts **Ellen Page**, **Diego Luna**, **Nina Dobrev**, **James Norton** and **Kiersey Clemons** as five medical students who stop their hearts for a few minutes to see what death is like before being revived. Their experiences energize them until they start to have nightmarish hallucinations that turn deadly.

AMERICAN MADE

Tom Cruise reunites with his *Edge of Tomorrow* director **Doug Liman** for this thriller based on the real-life exploits of TWA pilot Barry Seal (Cruise), who is recruited by the CIA in the 1980s to spy on Communist activities in Central America, but instead becomes a drug runner for the famed Medellín cartel.

Domhnall Gleeson (left) and Tom Cruise in *American Made*

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Kingsman

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SEPTEMBER 22

PHOTO BY MATT WINKELMEYER/GETTY

Toying AROUND

Dave Franco brings his infectious enthusiasm to ***The LEGO Ninjago Movie*** and the role of Lloyd Garmadon — a high school student by day/ninja fighter by night, with daddy issues ■ BY BOB STRAUSS

Dave Franco sits on a metal chair in a stripped-down Beverly Hills hotel room looking as happy as he can be. All that stuff you read about the actor's infectious smile being the most winning in the business? Not fake news.

You won't actually get to see that gregarious grin in Franco's latest movie, however. In *The LEGO Ninjago Movie* he merely provides the voice of animated brick boy Lloyd, a troubled teen who leads a squad of ninjas against the evil Garmadon who wants to destroy their ancient/modern/futuristic island city.

Dave Franco's LEGO character, Lloyd Garmadon

But even though you won't get a gander at the 32-year-old star of *Neighbors*, *21 Jump Street* and *Now You See Me* in the animated feature, you may just be able to feel his enthusiasm coming through all those pixels. It's hard to imagine anyone being this ecstatic about not appearing on screen.

"I'm really excited about *LEGO Ninjago*," says Franco, who also voiced Wally the construction worker in the 2014 *LEGO Movie* that got this whole franchise rolling. "I mean, the *LEGO* movies are the best animated movies out there right now. They somehow play equally well to my friends who are in their 30s and my nephews who are under the age of five. To walk that fine line of comedy, it takes these geniuses who are the creative teams behind these *LEGO* movies. I am genuinely so happy to be a part of one."

And there are many "geniuses" involved. *Ninjago* is the work of more than a dozen writers and three first-time animated feature directors (Charlie Bean, Paul Fisher and Bob Logan).

The large ensemble cast is pretty impressive, too. Lloyd's comrades-in-arms are voiced by *The Big Sick*'s Kumail Nanjiani (Jay), Nanjiani's *Silicon Valley* cast mate Zach Woods (Zane), *CHIPS* star Michael Peña (Kai), *Broad City*'s Abbi Jacobson (Nya) and *Portlandia*/*SNL* veteran Fred Armisen (Cole). That's Justin Theroux as the wicked Lord Garmadon, Olivia Munn as his wife Koko and Jackie Chan as Master Wu, trainer of the Ninjago ninjas.

"I feel fortunate to have been so CONTINUED ▶

surrounded by so many talented people who make me seem a lot more talented and funny than I naturally am," says the ever-effacing Franco.

"I truly believed that they were going to fire me every single time I went in to record! I'm just, I don't know, I'm very, very proud of this one. And it's weird to say, but this is one of the more complicated characters I've ever played and it's an animated character! But it's LEGO, so he's got a lot of parts."

To put it mildly. While *Ninjago*'s building block-based giant, predatory animals and Transformers-like robots may be impressive examples of interlocking digital engineering, the film's human characters have deeper levels too. Lloyd, for instance, has complex daddy issues. Garmadon is none other than his father.

"He's a high school kid who's dealing with the regular questions of high school, but on top of that his father happens to be the most evil man on the planet," Franco explains. "And everyone knows that this is his father, so they treat Lloyd like sh-t. But in his secret life, he's a ninja trying to fend off his father from his home city. No one knows, though, that he's this heroic ninja, so there are a lot of interesting dynamics at work there. It was fun."

Fortunately for Franco, his real-life family situation is anything but fraught. He recently married longtime girlfriend Alison Brie (star of TV's *Community*, *GLOW* and *Mad Men*) and enjoyed working with her in this past summer's acclaimed, medieval-nun sex farce *The Little Hours*.

While Dave has often said that he tries to distance himself professionally from his older brother James, the Palo Alto, California, native credits his sibling with helping him get started in the acting game and has always expressed respect for James's multi-hyphenate accomplishments.

Now the two Francos have worked closely on a project for the first time. James directed, produced and stars as Tommy Wiseau in the film adaptation of *The Disaster Artist*, actor Greg Sestero's memoir about the creation of one of the worst movies of all time, *The Room*. Dave plays Sestero, Brie is the character's girlfriend Amber, and Seth Rogen, Josh Hutcherson, Zac Efron, Sharon Stone and a deep bench of Hollywood names all have cameos or small parts.

Following a sensational world premiere at the South by Southwest film festival earlier this year, *The Disaster Artist* is scheduled for an awards season run in December.

Dave Franco, who's attended many midnight movie screenings of *The Room* since joining the cast, says his brother's project is more of a paean than a put-down.

"Just based on the cast and the nature of what this movie is, I think people are expecting a really broad comedy, where we're making fun of the original movie that our movie is based on," the actor admits. "But in reality, we took it very seriously. Our movie is extremely earnest; we didn't want to make fun of anyone. At its core, it's a movie about two guys who are trying to achieve their dreams and not taking no for an answer. I think that's a very relatable thing."

Sounds like some brothers from the Bay Area we know. For his part, Dave is pleased with what he's achieved up to this point. And when you tell him you can see that he's happy because of how beautifully he grins about it, his smile just grows wider.

"I'll take the compliment, Man," Franco says. "It feels good. I don't know, I feel very fortunate in my life right now and I'm just trying to hold onto this moment of happiness. I hope it continues."

Bob Strauss lives in L.A. where he writes about movies and filmmakers.

THE THIRD FRANCO

Did you know there's a third Franco brother? That's right, artist Tom Franco — seen left with some of his work at "The Art of Elysium Presents Tom Franco" in L.A. — is older than Dave, but younger than James. The 36-year-old is also the founder of the Firehouse Art Collective in Berkeley, California, and has dabbled in acting himself, mostly as an extra in his brother James's films. He played "Police Officer on Horse" in *Rise of the Planet of the Apes* and "Archie's Thug #1" in *Spring Breakers*.

TOM FRANCO PHOTO BY RANDY SHROPSHIRE/GETTY

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Marathon RECOVERY

When bombs went off at the 2013 Boston Marathon the lives of runner Erin Hurley and her boyfriend Jeff Bauman changed in an instant. But what happened next? Canada's **Tatiana Maslany**, who plays Hurley in ***Stronger***, explains why working through the aftermath was complicated ■ BY INGRID RANDOJA

After portraying 11 different clones (and winning an Emmy for her efforts) in the recently wrapped sci-fi series *Orphan Black*, Tatiana Maslany is slacking off by playing just a single character, Erin Hurley, in this month's *Stronger*.

The film is based on the book by Jeff Bauman and Bret Witter and stars Jake Gyllenhaal as Bauman, who was standing at the finish line of the 2013 Boston Marathon waiting for girlfriend Hurley to complete the race when the blast from the bomb left by terrorist Tamerlan Tsarnaev exploded at his feet.

Bauman lost both legs — but was able to identify Tsarnaev from his hospital bed — and the movie recounts Bauman and Hurley's relationship as he begins his arduous journey of recovery.

We caught up with 31-year-old Regina, Saskatchewan, native Maslany on the line from Los Angeles to chat about playing the movie version of Hurley and catching her breath after her exhausting stint on *Orphan Black*.

You must get many movie offers, why choose *Stronger*?

"I didn't know about the more personal, human side of the event. It wasn't about the terrorism aspect; it was about these people and getting to know what happened after, and how their lives were changed. I thought it was a really impactful story for that reason. And also, for me, the chance to get to work opposite Jake Gyllenhaal was such a thrill, I was so excited about that."

Tell us about Erin.

"Erin was Jeff's girlfriend at the time and she was running the marathon, and he was there to see her when it all happened. CONTINUED ▶

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2013 BOSTON MARATHON
John Hancock

Tatiana Maslany with her *Stronger* co-star Jake Gyllenhaal

STRONGER
SCREENS AT THE TORONTO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL BEFORE OPENING IN THEATRES **SEPTEMBER 22ND**

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She never completed the race because of what happened. Erin is an incredible person. I got to play a person who is in an extremely difficult situation, her conflict over whether she can stay with this guy. There's an odd sense of both love and responsibility and guilt and all of that. It's a really complicated situation for her to be in."

It must have felt like a huge responsibility to get her right.
"That was a huge thing, and I think I still struggle with that a little bit in that she is a person who is living her life right now. I got to hang out with her and we formed a friendship. I was never seeking to play a caricature of her; it was less about how she walks or talks and more about what it took for her to do what she did, to be there, and be supportive and be strong for him. It was amazing to get to be that close to someone who's gone through something like that. She was so open and generous, and ultimately it changed the way I see relationships. And also I think anyone who is able to run a marathon is amazing."

That's right, you had to train as a runner for the role.
"Oh my god, I definitely started training to run as soon as I got the part, and I got nowhere near what it would take to do it. The fact that I wasn't able to do it was a very humbling thing."

Erin and Jeff eventually got married,but this past February they announced they were divorcing. Did that affect your performance, or had you wrapped?
"Oh, we had wrapped by then, and for us it was about that moment, telling a truthful story about two people who were in devastating circumstances and who were struggling. That was our focus. These people have become fictionalized by us just by us making a film; we aren't really making a bio-pic. It's more about what it's like to go through something like this."

How was working with Jake Gyllenhaal? It seems like he threw himself into the role.
"It's very true, he is extremely committed and that kind of dedication to a physical transformation, committing to what Jeff had to experience being bound to the wheelchair and losing a part of himself. Jake certainly did a lot of physical work and emotional work and it was incredible to be witness to that. I am so excited by different actors' processes and going into the movie I just couldn't wait to see what he does and how he does it, and take from that what I can."

Speaking of being inspired by different actors, you've said Gena Rowlands' performance in *A Woman Under the Influence* changed your perception of what it means to be an actor.
"Yes. I saw it when I was 20. I had just moved to Toronto and my friend Joey Klein kind of educated me about film and showed me *A Woman Under the Influence* and I have watched it 50 times since. That performance was the thing that showed me the potential of what this art form could be, and how it could move people. Gena has this thing that is almost beyond gender, she's a creature unto herself. She's a thrill to watch. I laugh and cry and feel horrified at the same second, and I relate to all of it."

***Orphan Black* was such an exhausting job. Are you enjoying your downtime or are you itching to get back to work?**
"You know what, I watch a play or a film or read something and I think, 'Oh, I want to do it again, yes, yes, yes.' I've actually been doing some writing in collaboration with a few friends and that's been a really exciting new venture, a new way to explore my creativity, but it's also really wonderful for me to get to take a step back. I've worked since I was nine, so I've always worked from the time I was a kid and it's always been tied in with my identity. It's kind of interesting to take a break. I just finished this huge show, this thing that so defines me as an actor and now I can kind of figure out where I am at as a person, and just sleep!"

Ingrid Randoja is the deputy editor of Cineplex Magazine.

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KING FOR A DAY

On September 20th, 1973, Billie Jean King squared off against Bobby Riggs in a tennis match that took sexism to court. Here, reigning Best Actress Oscar winner **Emma Stone** explains why transforming into King for ***Battle of the Sexes*** was a lot harder than getting a 1970s haircut ■ BY JIM SLOTEK

Singing and dancing in *La La Land* was demanding. But Emma Stone says it may have been more challenging to learn to play tennis for the role of legendary Billie Jean King in *Battle of the Sexes*.

"I mean, I had sung before and I had danced a little, so I had that to start out with," she says of the three months she spent prepping for her Oscar-winning role in 2016's feel good movie of the year. "But I was a complete novice when it came to tennis.

"I dove in right after we completed *La La Land*. *Battle of the Sexes* could not be more different in a way. But it also required the same amount of rehearsal," she says during an interview in Toronto.

And it was more nerve-wracking in another regard. Billie Jean King is Emma Stone's first attempt at playing a real-life character, which is somewhat startling when you consider the number of movies Stone has crammed into her 28 years. Her Oscar turn aside, she's been Gwen Stacy in the *Amazing Spider-Man* movies, carried films like *Easy A* and *Zombieland*, stood out in awards-season favourites like *The Help* and *Birdman* (the latter earned her a Best Supporting Actress Oscar nomination) and eased into the romantic-comedy genre with the much-praised *Crazy, Stupid, Love*.

Crazy, Stupid, Love. is also where she first got to play opposite Steve Carell, the man who'd be her "male chauvinist pig" opponent in *Battle of the Sexes*.

Carell plays Bobby Riggs, the unabashedly sexist, aging ex-Wimbledon champ who never missed a chance to bash women's tennis. The idea to pit a past-his-prime male tennis star (himself, of course) against a female player at the peak of her career to prove male superiority was all Riggs' — a brainstorm he billed as "male chauvinist pig versus hairy-legs feminist."

King wanted nothing to do with Riggs when he first approached her. So he went to plan B and convinced Australian Margaret Court to play him. He psyched her out and defeated her in straight sets.

King knew the future of women's tennis hung in the balance, and finally said yes to Riggs. Their televised match at the Houston Astrodome in front of 30,000 people (the largest crowd in U.S. tennis history) carried a prize of $100,000. But King knew much more was at stake than that. "I thought it would set back women's tennis 50 years if I didn't win that match," she said afterward.

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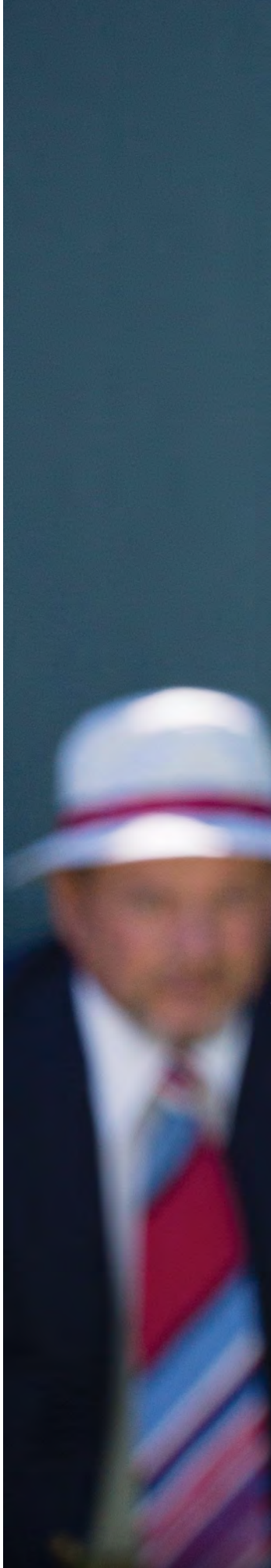

BATTLE OF THE SEXES
SCREENS AT THE TORONTO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL BEFORE OPENING IN THEATRES **SEPTEMBER 22ND**

Billie Jean King (Emma Stone) and Bobby Riggs (Steve Carell) clown around during a press conference in *Battle of the Sexes*

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Complicating matters was that King, a closeted lesbian at that time, was married to a man but in an affair with her secretary Marilyn Barnett — played in *Battle of the Sexes* by Stone's *Birdman* cast-mate Andrea Riseborough. (King's relationship with Barnett would explode a few years later in a sensational breach-of-promise lawsuit.)

"It takes place in a time period where Billie Jean was not out, she was married and that was complicated," Stone says. "And she had just started the WTA, the Women's Tennis Association, and was really fighting for equal pay for women. She's a real revolutionary and such an iconic human being."

Stone got to know King, and even presented her with an award at the Logo Trailblazer Honors in New York, which are presented by the LGBT-issues lifestyle cable channel, Logo.

At that event, Stone told the crowd about being a duffer, exchanging shots with a Hall-of-Famer. "Billie invited me to play some tennis," Stone said. "At that point, I'd had three lessons. She, on the other hand, is one of the greatest players of all time. So, a fair match it was not.

"I kept hitting clunkers, of course, and I was feeling frustrated. But Billie would just say, 'Forget the bad one. Focus on the next ball.'

"So what I lacked in tennis skills, I hope I made up for in my ability to connect with her essence and understand the greater lesson of what she was saying. 'Let go of the negative, stay open and positive. The next ball might just be a good one.' I feel like that's something Billie has lived by her entire life."

The pep talk, Stone says, left her more determined than ever to do justice to her first real-life role. She worked out a lot, gained 15 pounds of muscle and even did push-ups on set between takes.

For all that, Stone admits she never became a good tennis player. "I had an incredible professional tennis-playing body double. (NCAA doubles champion Kaitlyn Christian. Carell's was two-time USA Olympic team member Vince Spadea, who also trained both Carell and Stone).

"I was trying not to be a hero because, despite all my efforts, I just finally had to admit I am not good at the sport," Stone says. "But I tried my best to learn to look like I was. I concentrated on replicating Billie Jean's serve, her backhand, and how to play with a wooden racquet."

Perhaps it helped that Stone shares more than a bit of King's drive and positivity. At age 15, the actor did, after all, convince her parents to let her move from their Arizona home to Los Angeles, accompanied by her mom, so she could audition for TV pilots.

"Most parents would lock you in your room at that point," Stone says. "But my parents were really, 'Seize the day. If you know what your dream is work to achieve it' types."

The next few years were tough. "My first film role wasn't until *Superbad*, which, if I'd stayed home, would have been my senior year of high school. I often had the idea to give up. I just didn't do it. I've had the idea in the middle of film shoots before. 'After this one I'm just never going to act again.' And the bigger the film the more scared I tended to be.

"But I'm more excited about my career than ever," says the newly anointed Oscar winner. "Doing *Cabaret* [on Broadway] and then *La La Land* and then *Battle of the Sexes*, these were incredible experiences, one right after the other. It's really been invigorating."

Jim Slotek is a Toronto-based entertainment writer.

PHOTO FROM FOCUS ON SPORT/GETTY

SHE IS KING

Here's a photo of the real Billie Jean King speaking with the media before taking on Bobby Riggs in the 1973 Battle of the Sexes. King was 29 years old at the time and had recently won her fifth Wimbledon Ladies' Singles Championship.

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TORONTO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL GUIDE

The Toronto International Film Festival takes over Hogtown from September 7th to 17th, and whether you're braving downtown Toronto traffic and crowds to be among the first to see TIFF's lineup, or prefer to sit back and wait for this intriguing slate of films to come, one by one, to a theatre near you, it's a good idea to spend some quality time with our look at the best of the fest

THE TEARJERKER

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Jennifer Baichwal, Nicholas de Pencier (*Manufactured Landscapes*)

STARRING
Gord Downie, Bobby Baker, Paul Langlois, Gord Sinclair, Johnny Fay

IN THEATRES SEPTEMBER 17TH

Throughout The Tragically Hip's monumentally moving Man Machine Poem tour, the band members declined to speak with the press. Instead they let their live shows speak for themselves, a wise and dignified move that only amplified the emotion around their presumed-to-be-final tour as Gord Downie battles brain cancer. But maybe, in part, just a bit, the silence was

NNING

also so that all the good bits would be saved for this behind-the-scenes documentary about the tour that features intimate interviews and backstage moments. And we're fine with that since all that precious material is now in the very good hands of documentary filmmakers Jennifer Baichwal and Nicholas de Pencier (*Watermark*, *Manufactured Landscapes*).

TIFF BY THE NUMBERS

9

Venues TIFF will use to screen films this year

THE CELEBRITY DIRECTOR

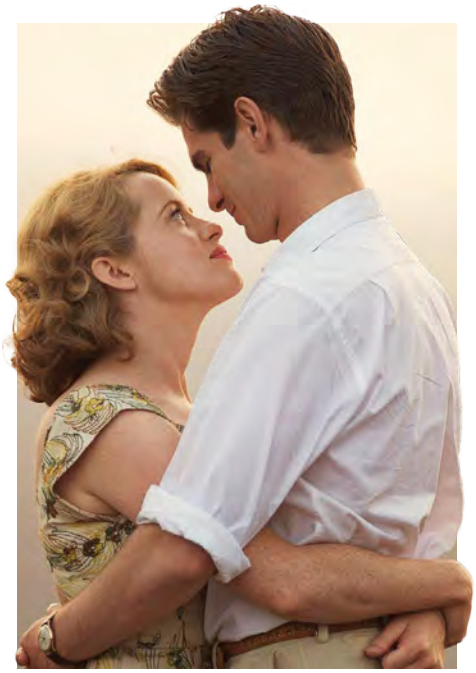
SUBURBICON

DIRECTED BY
George Clooney (*Monuments Men*)

STARRING
Matt Damon, Oscar Isaac, Julianne Moore

IN THEATRES
OCTOBER 27TH

George Clooney directs this period drama based on a script from the Coen Brothers, whose style he knows well having starred in *Hail, Caesar!*, *Burn After Reading* and *O Brother, Where Art Though?* for the quirky siblings. This one tells the story of a seemingly serene and well-functioning 1959 family headed by dad Gardner (Matt Damon), but — no surprise — all is not what it seems. Things turn really dark when men break into the house and kill mom. Interesting fact: Clooney considered taking on the role of bad guy Roger (now played by Oscar Isaac) when the Coens first wrote the script about 15 years ago. Back then the story was set in the 1980s.



THE INSPIRATION

BREATHE

DIRECTED BY
Andy Serkis (debut)

STARRING
Andrew Garfield, Claire Foy

IN THEATRES OCTOBER 13TH

Have your Kleenex ready for actor Andy Serkis' directorial debut. The inspiring drama is based on the life of disabled activist Robin Cavendish (Andrew Garfield), who was 28 and newly married to wife Diana (Claire Foy) when he was struck down by polio and paralyzed from the neck down. Cavendish survived, and with the support of Diana helped invent wheelchairs that allowed him, and other polio survivors, to leave their beds.

THE HIGH-VOLTAGE FILM

THE CURRENT WAR

DIRECTED BY
Alfonso Gomez-Rejon (*Me and Earl and the Dying Girl*)

STARS
Benedict Cumberbatch, Michael Shannon

IN THEATRES DECEMBER 22ND

While we take electricity for granted now there was a time when it was the stuff of science-fiction, and the man who delivered it to our living rooms would change the world. Benedict Cumberbatch stars as famed inventor Thomas Edison, whose belief that direct current (DC) was the best distribution system for electricity clashed with George Westinghouse (Michael Shannon), who favoured alternating current (AC).

TIFF BY THE NUMBERS

2

Movies Angelina Jolie has at this year's fest. She directed the drama *First They Killed My Father*, and produced the animated feature *The Breadwinner*

THE DISASTER PIC

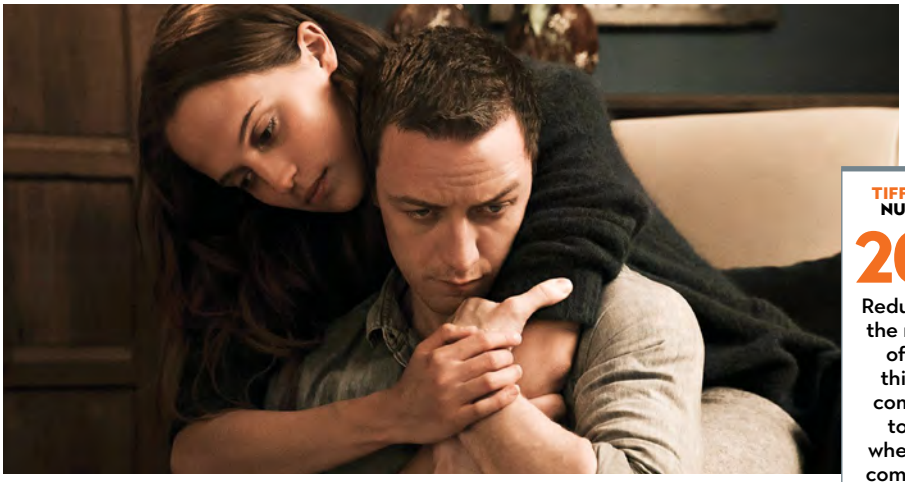
THE MOUNTAIN BETWEEN US

DIRECTED BY
Hany Abu-Assad (*Omar*)

STARRING
Kate Winslet, Idris Elba

IN THEATRES
OCTOBER 6TH

Survival movies usually focus on a single person battling the elements to get home alive. However, *The Mountain Between Us* finds doctor Ben Bass (Idris Elba) and journalist Alex Martin (Kate Winslet) fighting for survival together after their small plane crashes atop a remote mountain. Their dire situation is made worse by the fact that Alex's leg is broken. The casting is divine — who wouldn't want to watch Elba and Winslet play off one another — but it took some doing as Elba only stepped into the role after Michael Fassbender and Charlie Hunnam dropped out, and Winslet replaced Margot Robbie and Rosamund Pike.



Go to **CINEPLEX.COM/TIFF** for daily coverage of the festival!

TIFF BY THE NUMBERS

20%

Reduction in the number of films this year compared to 2016 when some complained there were too many

THE INTERNATIONAL AFFAIR

SUBMERGENCE

DIRECTED BY
Wim Wenders (*Buena Vista Social Club*)

STARRING
Alicia Vikander, James McAvoy

IN THEATRES
TO BE ANNOUNCED

TIFF loves Wim Wenders. This will be the German director's third film in a row to screen at the Toronto fest after *Every Thing Will Be Fine* and *Les beaux jours d'Aranjuez*. Here he's cast Swede Alicia Vikander and Scottish James McAvoy in his continents-spanning love story shot in Germany, France, Spain and the Faroe Islands. McAvoy plays an engineer trapped in a windowless room in Africa by jihadist fighters and Vikander is a biomathematician about to dive deep into the Greenland Sea in a submersible. Trapped in their respective confines, both recall their chance meeting and the intense love affair that ensued.

THE SPORTS SAGA

I, TONYA

DIRECTED BY
Craig Gillespie (*The Finest Hours*)

STARRING
Margot Robbie, Sebastian Stan

IN THEATRES
TO BE ANNOUNCED

Break someone's kneecap, get a movie at TIFF. Is that how it works now? No, seriously, the kneecapping of American figure skater Nancy Kerrigan by the ex-husband of her U.S. Figure Skating Team rival Tonya Harding right before the 1994 Winter Olympics was one of the most compelling sports stories of the 1990s. And it wasn't actually a kneecapping, just a bad bruise, but we'll leave the rest of the details to this movie directed by Australian Craig Gillespie and starring his fellow Aussie Margot Robbie as Harding and little-known American actor Caitlin Carver as Kerrigan.

THE ODD COUPLE

VICTORIA AND ABDUL

DIRECTED BY
Stephen Frears (*Florence Foster Jenkins*)

STARRING
Judi Dench, Ali Fazal

IN THEATRES SEPTEMBER 22ND

Judi Dench portrayed a depressed Queen Victoria who found solace in the company of a servant in 1997's *Mrs. Brown*. Twenty years later Dench picks up where she left off once again playing her majesty in this drama that finds Victoria regaining her love of life when she takes a shine to a new Indian kitchen servant named Abdul Karim (Ali Fazal).

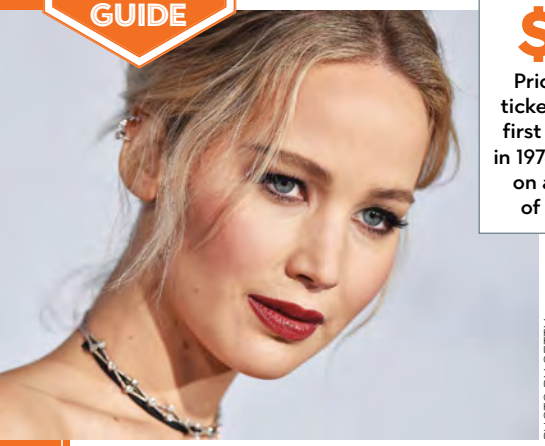


PHOTO BY GETTY

TIFF BY THE NUMBERS

$2

Price of a ticket at the first festival in 1976, based on a pack of three

THE ACTOR'S DIRECTOR

MOTHER!

DIRECTED BY
Darren Aronofsky (*Black Swan*)

STARRING
Jennifer Lawrence, Javier Bardem, Michelle Pfeiffer

IN THEATRES SEPTEMBER 15TH

Director Darren Aronofsky has rarely made a film that didn't earn an actor or two at least an Oscar nomination, if not a win. Think of *Black Swan* (Natalie Portman won), *The Wrestler* (Mickey Rourke and Marisa Tomei nominated), *The Fighter* (Christian Bale and Melissa Leo won, Amy Adams nominated) and *Requiem for a Dream* (Ellen Burstyn nominated). So will it be Lawrence (who, by the way, is dating Aronofsky), Bardem, or both, who earn a statue for their performance in this psychological thriller about what happens when uninvited guests barge in on a tranquil family?

ELSEWHERE IN THIS ISSUE

We've got two more TIFF films covered in this issue. Turn to **page 32** to read our interview with Emma Stone for *Battle of the Sexes*, which will screen in TIFF's Special Presentations program, and on **page 28** you can check out our interview with Tatiana Maslany about *Stronger*, which is being honoured with a Gala screening.

THE LITERARY DRAMA

MARY SHELLEY

DIRECTED BY
Haifaa Al-Mansour (*Wadjda*)

STARRING
Elle Fanning, Douglas Booth

IN THEATRES
TO BE ANNOUNCED

In 2012, Haifaa Al-Mansour became the first female from Saudi Arabia to direct a feature film with her coming-of-age tale *Wadjda*. Her sophomore pic, set in 19th-century England, recounts the love affair between 18-year-old Mary Wollstonecraft Godwin (Elle Fanning) and married poet Percy Shelley (Douglas Booth). Ostracized by society, the couple travels across Europe and spends a summer with Lord Byron (Tom Sturridge) in Switzerland, where Mary begins writing her classic novel *Frankenstein*.

THE FAIRY TALE

THE SHAPE OF WATER

DIRECTED BY
Guillermo del Toro (*Pacific Rim*)

STARRING
Sally Hawkins, Doug Jones

IN THEATRES
DECEMBER 7TH

Acclaimed director Guillermo del Toro brings his best to TIFF. He's previously screened *Cronos*, *The Devil's Backbone* and *Pan's Labyrinth* at the Toronto fest, and there's buzz surrounding his latest offering, a dreamy fairy tale set in Cold War America that sees a mute cleaning lady (Sally Hawkins) who works at a top-secret government facility falling in love with a mysterious creature (Doug Jones) kept captive in a water tank.

^Redeem 1,000 points for a free General Admission movie ticket, 1,500 points for free a Premium movie ticket (i.e. 3D, UltraAVX, IMAX and DBOX), and 2,000 SCENE points for free a movie ticket in a VIP Cinemas. For redemption details, visit scene.ca. ‡Get 500 Bonus SCENE points with any jeans purchase. Offer valid on all jeans purchased between August 23 and September 18, 2017. Offer ends September 18, 2017, at 11:59 PM EST. Silver, Buffalo and Mavi Jeans available at select Mark's locations, through Mark's FastFind and at marks.com. SCENE Members who make a qualifying purchase of any pair of jeans from marks.com or any Mark's retail location in Canada will receive a PIN card worth 500 bonus SCENE points. Maximum of four (4) SCENE PIN code redemptions per SCENE member from promotion. PIN codes must be entered online at scene.ca/marks on or before Oct 2, 2017, at 11:59 PM EST. Time extensions will not be granted. The bonus points coupon is not transferable, non-saleable and not redeemable for cash. SCENE points have no cash value. This offer may be combined with other discounts, special promotions or coupons offered at the time of purchase. If you are not a member of the SCENE Program, join for free at scene.ca to redeem the PIN code. For full terms and conditions, visit scene.ca/marks. SCENE® and SCENE DesignTM are the trademarks of SCENE IP LP, used under license.

FROM TIFF TO

A dozen movies have screened at TIFF and then won the Best Picture Oscar. independent films that took full advantage of the festival's buzz machine, but

1981

Chariots of Fire

The first of only five movies that won TIFF's People's Choice Award before going on to Oscar glory, *Chariots of Fire* tells the story of two British runners who compete at the 1924 Olympics. The film that made composer Vangelis a sensation had already screened at Cannes months before its Toronto bow, but the Toronto fest — which was still called Festival of Festivals at the time — was its North American debut.

1999

American Beauty

Tapping into the late-1990s themes of job dissatisfaction, personal inertia and marital disappointment, director Sam Mendes' suburban tale became the second TIFF film to win the People's Choice Award before Oscar gold. Kevin Spacey also won Best Actor for his portrayal of fed-up-with-it-all patriarch Lester Burnham, whose obsession with his daughter's friend (Mena Suvari) was both creepy and compelling. This was the first of three consecutive Best Picture wins for Steven Spielberg's young DreamWorks Studios, followed by *Gladiator* and *A Beautiful Mind*.

2005

Crash

Canadian writer/director Paul Haggis's drama about a bunch of Los Angelinos with overlapping stories (Sandra Bullock, Don Cheadle, Matt Dillon and Terrence Howard led the ensemble cast) wasn't supposed to win Best Picture. Everyone thought it would be Ang Lee's gay love story *Brokeback Mountain*, and many still think it should have been. But there's no questioning that *Crash*, which played only one major fest — TIFF, was a quality film that raised important issues around race and equality.

2007

No Country for Old Men

There was already buzz around Joel and Ethan Coen's modern Western (and Javier Bardem's career-defining performance as killer Anton Chigurh) when it arrived at TIFF. The film had been nominated for the Palme d'Or at Cannes four months earlier, but lost out to the Romanian art film *4 Months, 3 Weeks and 2 Days* (which was shut out come Oscar time). TIFF helped propel *No Country* forward, though even in Toronto it lost the People's Choice Award to hometown favourite David Cronenberg and *Eastern Promises*.

2008

Slumdog Millionaire

A true underdog story at both TIFF and the Academy Awards, *Slumdog Millionaire* made stars out of no-names Dev Patel and Freida Pinto. Director Danny Boyle's film about a poor boy from Mumbai (Patel) who defies expectations by acing every single question on the Indian version of *Who Wants to be a Millionaire?* had drama, humour and energy all wrapped together with a unique narrative structure that earned the film TIFF's People's Choice Award as well as Oscar gold.

2009

The Hurt Locker

It was at TIFF that director Kathryn Bigelow's film about an American army bomb disposal expert (Jeremy Renner) was picked up by Summit Entertainment, ensuring a theatrical release. However, mainstream audiences didn't get to see the film until the following summer, by which time it had already played just about every other film festival, including Montreal, Oslo, South by Southwest, Philadelphia, Seattle, Nantucket and Edinburgh. The road trip worked, and come March 2010 *The Hurt Locker* won the Oscar war.

THE OSCARS

Some were prestige studio pics, while others were they all built momentum in Toronto

TIFF BY THE NUMBERS

9

Number of the past 10 Best Picture victors that screened at TIFF. The one exception in the past decade? *Birdman*, which premiered at the Venice film festival

2010

The King's Speech

Even Queen Elizabeth approved of this story about her beloved father's struggle with stuttering. Colin Firth plays Prince Albert, who later becomes King George VI, and seeks help with his speech impediment from a determined therapist (Geoffrey Rush) who offers an unconventional way out. The film screened at TIFF on Firth's 50th birthday (September 10th), a nice gift, as was winning the People's Choice Award a few days later.

2011

The Artist

The Artist's victory at the Academy Awards was important, and unexpected, in many ways. It was the first French film to win Best Picture, star Jean Dujardin was the first Frenchman to win Best Actor, it was the first silent film to win Oscar's top prize since *Wings* in 1929 and the first black-and-white film to be victorious since 1993's *Schindler's List*. But before the Academy was charmed by this tale of Dujardin's washed-up movie actor, Toronto's audiences got to wallow in its melancholy beauty.

2012

Argo

Well, at least Toronto made director Ben Affleck feel welcome when he brought his Warner Bros.-made movie about the Canadian Caper — in which CIA agent Tony Mendez (Affleck) and Canadian ambassador Ken Taylor (Victor Garber) helped rescue six American diplomats during the Iran hostage crisis — to TIFF. Come Oscar time, Affleck wasn't even nominated for a directing award and yet, much to everyone's surprise, *Argo* took home Best Picture.

2013

12 Years a Slave

Director Steve McQueen's *12 Years a Slave* was still an indie movie when it screened at TIFF on September 6th, 2013. It was also an indie when it screened at the New York and New Orleans film festivals a month later. It wasn't until November of that year that that the film got a small-studio deal when Summit Entertainment picked it up. The harrowing true story tells of Solomon Northup (Chiwetel Ejiofor), a free African-American who is sold into slavery in the 1840s South. Summit's commitment paid off with not only a Best Picture statue, but a Best Actress for little-known Lupita Nyong'o.

2015

Spotlight

Open Road Films used TIFF to its full marketing advantage when promoting their phenomenal drama about the *Boston Globe* reporters who uncovered a massive pedophile problem and cover-up within the Catholic Church. The producers brought the real journalists to the festival and paired them with their actor counterparts for interviews (Rachel McAdams/ Sacha Pfeiffer, Liev Schreiber/Marty Baron, Mark Ruffalo/ Michael Rezendes, etc.). Great idea for a great movie that went on to beat out *Revenant* and *Room* for Best Picture.

2016

Moonlight

Director Barry Jenkins' *Moonlight* came out of nowhere to blow everyone away at last year's fest. Rarely do we get to see the slow building of a man, from the blank slate of childhood to the (not-so) final product of adulthood depicted in such a methodical and revelatory way as we do watching little Chiron Harris struggle with poverty, drugs and sexuality as he changes from a boy to a man. The payoff was an ending to the 89th Academy Awards ceremony that was as surprising as the film itself when *Moonlight* snatched the Best Picture statue from *La La Land*'s waiting arms.

CASTING CALL

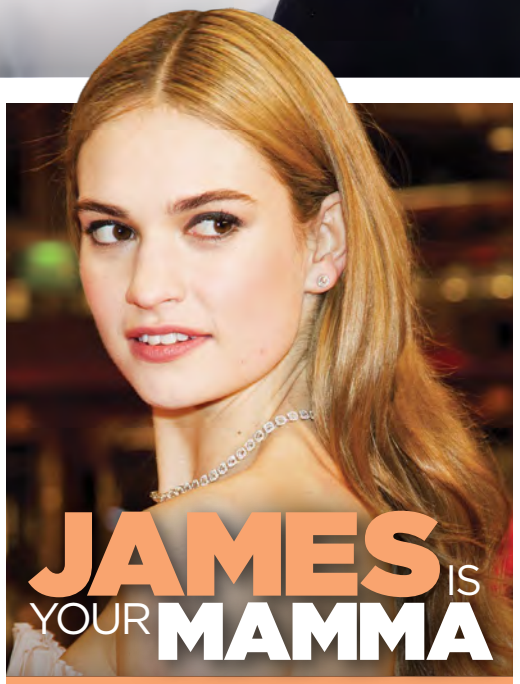
BY INGRID RANDOJA

LOPEZ RETURNS TO ROM-COMS

Jenifer Lopez was once the queen of rom-coms, headlining pics such as *The Wedding Planner*, *Maid in Manhattan* and *The Back-up Plan*. She returns to the genre in *Second Act*, about a woman working in a big-box store who reinvents herself. **Peter Segal** (*50 First Dates*) directs.

JONES DIVES INTO SWAN LAKE

Felicity Jones follows up her *Star Wars* gig by starring as princess Odette, who is turned into a swan by a sorceress in Italian director **Luca Guadagnino**'s (*A Bigger Splash*) epic drama *Swan Lake*, based on the famed ballet of the same name. Three Hollywood studios — Universal, Paramount and TriStar — are bidding on the hot property.



JAMES IS YOUR MAMMA

Lily James will portray the young version of **Meryl Streep**'s Donna in the *Mamma Mia!* sequel, *Mamma Mia: Here We Go Again!* The original film's leading cast, including Streep, **Amanda Seyfried** and **Christine Baranski**, return for the follow-up that uses flashbacks to chronicle young Donna's relationship with her friends and lovers. *Mamma Mia: Here We Go Again!* opens July 20th, 2018.

WHAT'S GOING ON WITH... Aladdin

Shooting is underway in London, England, on the **Guy Ritchie**-directed *Aladdin*, the live-action version of Disney's animated classic. The studio launched a global casting call to find ethnically appropriate actors to tell the story of Aladdin, a street urchin who joins with a genie to win the hand of princess Jasmine. Egyptian-born, Toronto-raised actor **Mena Massoud** — who's appeared mostly in TV shows, including the Amazon series *Jack Ryan* — will play Aladdin. **Naomi Scott** (*Power Rangers*) is Jasmine and **Will Smith** slips into the role of the genie, originally voiced by the outrageous Robin Williams. *Aladdin* flies into theatres March 29th, 2019.

ELGORT ANSWERS MAYDAY

Baby Driver star **Ansel Elgort** will play war hero and future American president John F. Kennedy in *Mayday 109*, which recounts Kennedy's heroics as the commanding officer of navy boat *PT-109* during World War II. A Japanese ship destroyed the vessel and Kennedy and his surviving crew (including an injured man Kennedy towed behind him) swam three miles to a tiny island and were rescued days later. No word who will direct.

DiCaprio AND Scorsese REUNITE

Killers of the Flower Moon will mark the sixth pairing of actor **Leonardo DiCaprio** and director **Martin Scorsese.** Set in the 1920s, the film is based on the real-life murders that took place in Oklahoma and targeted members of the Osage native tribe. Oil had just been discovered on their land and the recently formed FBI was brought in to solve the homicides. Production gets underway after Scorsese finishes work on his mob drama *The Irishman* and DiCaprio wraps *The Black Hand*, about a real-life New York City detective who takes on a sinister crime syndicate in the early 1900s.

PHOTO BY JB LACROIX/GETTY

FRESH FACE
Kiersey Clemons

You'll see **Kiersey Clemons** die and come back to life as one of the medical students who tamper with nature in this month's *Flatliners*. The 23-year-old got her big break playing lesbian high school geek Diggy in 2015's *Dope*, which led to roles in TV's *Transparent* and the Netflix series *Easy*. Look for her cameo as Iris West, a journalist who is The Flash's (**Ezra Miller**) girlfriend, in the upcoming *Justice League*.

ALSO IN THE WORKS

▶ **Joe Manganiello** plays an ex-convict who tries to recapture his past life in the drama *Stano*. ▶ **Elle Fanning** and **Timothee Chalamet** will star in director **Woody Allen**'s untitled love story that starts shooting later this year. ▶ *Chippendales* casts **Ben Stiller** and **Dev Patel** as the founders of the male stripping empire. ▶ **Blake Lively** plays an assassin looking for revenge in *The Rhythm Section*, based on author **Mark Burnell**'s Stephanie Patrick book series.

WIND POWER

It took three directors, seven writers, 1,500 extras and one obsessed producer named David O. Selznick to make the 1939 classic *Gone with the Wind*.

Selznick bought the rights to author Margaret Mitchell's 1,037-page epic Civil War romance that finds spoiled Southern belle Scarlett O'Hara (Vivien Leigh) pining for the melancholy Ashley (Leslie Howard) while falling into a tempestuous relationship with the arrogant Rhett Butler (Clark Gable).

Selznick wanted only Gable for the role and waited two years until he became available. However, finding the perfect Scarlett was a chore as he screen-tested 33 actors before signing Leigh, a relatively unknown British beauty. He hired screenwriters only to fire them, and completed much of the adaptation himself working up to 18 hours a day thanks to his use of amphetamines.

Selznick's doggedness was rewarded, as *Gone with the Wind* was a smashing success, becoming the highest-earning film made up to that point (and adjusted for inflation it is still the most successful film in box-office history) and earning eight Academy Awards, including a Best Actress award for Leigh and the coveted Best Picture statue.

—INGRID RANDOJA

Gone with the Wind **screens as part of Cineplex's Classic Films series on September 16th and 20th. Go to Cineplex.com/Events for times and locations.**

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CINEPLEX STORE The Month's Best Home Entertainment

SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING

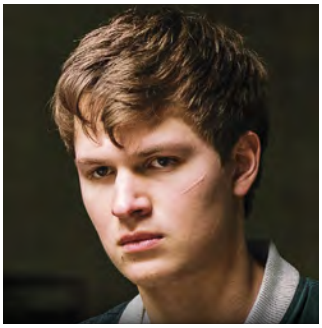
BUY IT SEPTEMBER 26

It seemed risky to reboot the Spider-Man franchise yet again, but the filmmakers wisely turned the superhero film into a charming coming-of-age flick — still with great action sequences — that soars on the performance from the likable **Tom Holland**.

THE BIG SICK

BUY IT SEPTEMBER 5
RENT IT SEPTEMBER 19

When his former girlfriend, Emily Gordon (**Zoe Kazan**), falls into a coma, comic actor **Kumail Nanjiani** (playing himself) stays by her side and bonds with her worried parents (**Ray Romano**, **Holly Hunter**). This heart-tugging rom-com is based on Gordon and Nanjiani's real-life love story.



BABY DRIVER

BUY IT SEPTEMBER 12
RENT IT SEPTEMBER 26

Director **Edgar Wright** puts together a killer soundtrack and pulls off some of the best stunt-driving sequences you've seen in this heist pic starring **Ansel Elgort** as the young getaway driver who wants to break free from his thieving cohorts (**Kevin Spacey**, **Jon Hamm** and **Jamie Foxx**).

THE HOUSE

BUY IT SEPTEMBER 12
RENT IT SEPTEMBER 26

Will Ferrell and **Amy Poehler** play a couple of cash-strapped parents who pair up with their gambler friend (**Jason Mantzoukas**) and turn his basement into an underground casino to earn enough money to pay for their daughter's (**Ryan Simpkins**) college tuition.

TRANSFORMERS: THE LAST KNIGHT

BUY IT SEPTEMBER 12
RENT IT SEPTEMBER 26

Transformers ally Cade Yeager (**Mark Wahlberg**) heads to England to meet with Lord Burton (**Anthony Hopkins**), who reveals the machines once served King Arthur and that they must recover Merlin's staff to stop the Decepticons from destroying Earth.

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FINALLY...

PHOTO BY MARK KORVEN

INSTRUMENT OF **HORROR**

Any guesses as to what this thing is?

It's not a lathe or a primitive band saw, or any piece of machinery you'd find in a wood shop. We'll give you a clue. It was made in Canada by a guitar maker named Tony Duggan-Smith who's friends with veteran Canadian composer Mark Korven. Korven has been working on a lot of horror movies of late, including the spooky 2015 hit *The Witch*.

It's the "Apprehension Engine," an instrument the pair created to give Korven a wider array of eerie and frightening sounds to play with on film scores, heightening the tension and scaring the pants off moviegoers. There are steel rulers to twang, strings to bow menacingly and a reverb tank to make your deepest fears echo inside your brain.

The first model was built just a year ago (a second is in the works), but keep your ears open for its terrifying strains in upcoming scary pics *Our House* and *The Wanting*. —*MW*

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*Based on Automotive News Full-size Pickup segmentation. ^Based on the past 6 years of registration. †Longevity based on IHS Automotive: Polk Canadian Vehicles In Operation data as of July 1, 2016, for model years 1988-2016 for the entire Ram large pickup segment compared to all competitive large pickups that have been on the road since 1988.